

Appl. No. : 09/879,364
Filed : June 12, 2001

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed December 16, 2003, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider the above-captioned application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments. As a result of the amendments listed above, Claims 8-28 are now pending. Claims 1-7 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the same, or similar, claims at a later date through continuation practice.

Applicant notes that the Examiner did not include a checked-off version of the prior art submission 1449 form mailed by Applicant on October 9, 2003. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to send a copy of the checked-off form.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are inapplicable to the present claims and specification. Accordingly, early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is most earnestly solicited.

If any undeveloped issues remain or if any issues require clarification, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 5/14/04

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